



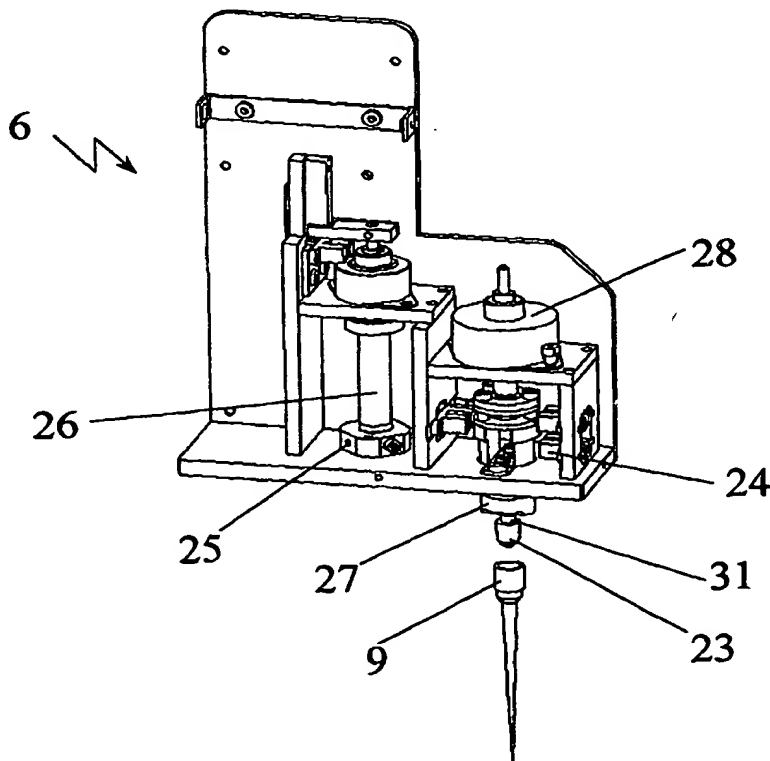
## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification <sup>7</sup> : <b>G01N 35/00 // 33/54</b>		<b>A3</b>	(11) International Publication Number: <b>WO 00/08472</b>
			(43) International Publication Date: 17 February 2000 (17.02.00)
(21) International Application Number: <b>PCT/GB99/02425</b>		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DE (Utility model), DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).	
(22) International Filing Date: 23 July 1999 (23.07.99)		<b>Published</b> <i>With international search report.</i>	
(30) Priority Data: 9816943.6 4 August 1998 (04.08.98) GB 9816944.4 4 August 1998 (04.08.98) GB			
(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): DYNEX TECHNOLOGIES INC. [US/US]; 14340 Sullyfield Circle, Chantilly, VA 22021 (US).		(88) Date of publication of the international search report: 13 July 2000 (13.07.00)	
(72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): BOTT, Jon [GB/GB]; Flat 5, Avenue Vivier, Ville au Roi, St. Peter Port, Guernsey (GB). FUSSELLIER, Andrew [GB/GB]; L'Eclaire, Rue du Laitte, Torteval, Guernsey (GB). BUNCE, Adrian [GB/GB]; 51 The Boulevard, Worthing, West Sussex BN13 1JZ (GB). LE PAGE, Paul [GB/GB]; Tregenna, Le Mont D'aval, Castel, Guernsey GY5 0PD (GB).			
(74) Agent: JEFFREY, Philip, Michael; Frank B. Dehn & Co., 179 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4EL (GB).			

(54) Title: AUTOMATED IMMUNOASSAY APPARATUS WITH FLEXIBLE PICK-UP ARM

## (57) Abstract

An automated sample handling apparatus is disclosed having a pipette mechanism (6) which has an integral clamp device (27, 31, 23) suitable for picking up one or more items other than a disposable tip (8; 12) such as a plate holder (35) which can carry a microplate or other consumable item(s). A retractable drawer (14) for carrying a plurality of microplates (13) is also provided.



**FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY**

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece			TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	ML	Mali	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MN	Mongolia	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MR	Mauritania	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MW	Malawi	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	MX	Mexico	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NE	Niger	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NL	Netherlands	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NO	Norway	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	NZ	New Zealand		
CM	Cameroon			PL	Poland		
CN	China	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CU	Cuba	KZ	Kazakstan	RO	Romania		
CZ	Czech Republic	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
DE	Germany	LI	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DK	Denmark	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
EE	Estonia	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		